worthy. It is also open to him to get a loan from a Co-operative Society. We have created all these facilities. It is only propaganda work, education and explanation of the provisions by men like yourself that is needed to enable the depressed classes to take full advantage of the rules.

**14. Difficulties in getting lands registered under the Puduval Rules with suggestions for increasing the output of paddy by throwing open swampy areas for cultivation.**

*Mr. C. A. A. Meera Rowther* (Member, Peermade Taluk) said that, considering the mountainous nature of Peermade and the ravages of wild animals, Government had in bygone days registered lands on concessional rates, and that, during the last settlement also, many blocks of land which had been in the *bona fide* occupation of people were registered in their names free of *tharavila* and *thadivila*. But, in spite of those concessions, only very few lands had been taken up for occupation and cultivation, and the people had not thought it worth their while to settle down there. Such being the case, the high rates of *tharavila* and *thadivila* laid down in the Revised Puduval Rules scared away the people from taking up more lands. Further, whenever lands were applied for, they were surveyed at the cost of the applicants and then put up to auction. In many cases bidders were not forthcoming and the surveyed lands were left as *tharisu*, thereby causing loss to Government in the shape of *tharavila*, tax, etc., which they would have got if those lands had been assigned. To remove the above grievances and to accelerate the development of Peermade, the Member prayed for the following relief measures:—

(1) that the *tharavila* on *puduval* lands be fixed at varying rates from Rs. 3 to Rs. 10 per acre, and that, whenever the amount of *tharavila* on any land exceeded Rs. 100, it might be recovered in five yearly instalments;

(2) that the existing rates of *thadivila* be reduced to one-fourth of the same;

(3) that the ryots in Peermade be allowed to carry arms without license; and

(4) that they be allowed to graze their cattle without the payment of fees.

**15. Suggestions for remedying the hardships of the people and the loss to Government through the prohibition of further registry of land within the cardamom reserve.**

*Mr. C. A. A. Meera Rowther* (Member, Peermade Taluk) said that, owing to the want of adequate facilities for improving the cardamom gardens, and to the trouble from plant pest for about the last 3 or 4 years, the cardamom industry in the country was on its decline. Added to those difficulties, Government had recently prohibited the further registry of lands within the Cardamom Hills Reserve. That order prevented the agriculturists from taking up further lands and improving the condition of the cardamom industry. He, therefore, prayed that, in order to remove the difficulties that stood in the way of the development of that industry, lands in the Cardamom Hills Reserve might be assigned to cardamom ryots and all possible facilities afforded to them to develop that industry.

*Dewan's reply.*—In regard to the assignment of lands under the Puduval Rules, I have already said that the question of reducing the rates of *tharavila* and *thadivila* would be re-examined. In regard to the assignment of cardamom lands, in the first place, there are very few applications for such lands now. Secondly, such applications as have been received are from non-Travancoreans. Moreover, if an area of 20 acres is granted for cardamom cultivation, a large extent of the surrounding area has to be allowed to lie waste. It is for the above reasons that Government have recently prohibited further assignment of lands within the Cardamom Hills Reserve. Of course, the existing cultivations may continue and orders have been issued to regularise them. It is the policy of the Government first to provide the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja with lands for cultivation, and then to grant [illegible] of outsiders for lands.

**16. Difficulties in the way of Pulayas and other depressed classes in getting puduval lands registered in their names.**

*Mr. Kurumpan Daivathan* (Member, nominated) said that the rules recently issued by Government for the assignment of 3 acres of land at concessional

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly